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AUG 27 2009

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Kirk E. NEWMAN et al.	:	
Application No. 10/729,264	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: December 03, 2003	:	
Attorney Docket No.	:	

This is a decision on the petition under the unintentional provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed July 15, 2009, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The application became abandoned for failure to timely reply within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.113 to the final Office action, mailed July 28, 2008, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the application became abandoned on October 29, 2008.

The petition satisfies the requirements of 37 CFR 1.137(b) in that petitioner has supplied (1) the reply in the form of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and fee of \$810.00, and the submission required by 37 CFR 1.114; (2) the petition fee of \$1620.00; and (3) a proper statement of unintentional delay. Accordingly, the reply to the final Office action of July 28, 2008 is accepted as having been unintentionally delayed.

An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 must be filed prior to the expiration of the maximum extendable period for reply. *See In re Application of S.*, 8 USPQ2d 1630, 1631 (Comm'r Pats. 1988). Since the \$1,110.00 extension of time fee submitted with the petition on July 15, 2009 was subsequent to the maximum extendable period for reply, this fee is unnecessary and will be credited to petitioner's deposit account.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-4231.

This application is being referred to Technology Center AU 1793 for processing of the RCE and for appropriate action by the Examiner in the normal course of business on the amendment submitted in accordance with 37 CFR 1.114.



Michelle R. Eason
Paralegal Specialist
Office of Petition